

Amusements and Meetings To-night.

BOOTH OPERA HOUSE—Lawn Tennis.
DAILY THEATRE—Needles and Pins.
HAYES'S THEATRE—The Lion of Honor.
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CHICKERING HALL—Passion Play.
MASONIC THEATRE—33rd and 8th—Lectures.
REPUBLICAN HALL—33rd and 8th—Lectures.
STREETWAY HALL—2nd—Concert.

Index to Advertisements.

AMUSEMENTS—3d Page—6th column.
ANNOUNCEMENTS—3d Page—2d and 3d columns.
BANKING HOUSES AND BANKERS—7th Page—5th column.
BOARD AND ROOMS—7th Page—6th column.
BUSINESS NOTICES—4th Page—1st column.
CORPORATION NOTICES—6th Page—3d column.
DANCING ACADEMIES—7th Page—3d column.
DIVIDEND NOTICES—7th Page—3d and 6th columns.
DRESS MAKING—6th Page—3d column.
EUROPEAN ADVERTISING—8th Page—6th column.
FINANCIAL—7th Page—4th and 5th columns.
FUTURE—6th Page—3d column.
THE HOLIDAYS—3d Page—4th column.
LECTURES—7th Page—2d and 3d columns.
LOTTES AND FORTUNE—6th Page—3d column.
MARRIAGES AND DEATHS—6th Page—4th and 5th columns.
MISCELLANEOUS—6th Page—3d column.
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS—3d Page—6th column.
NEW PUBLICATIONS—6th Page—1st, 2d and 3d columns.
OCEAN STEAMERS—6th Page—3d column.
POLITICAL NOTICES—5th Page—5th column.
REAL ESTATE—3d Page—1st and 2d columns.
SITUATIONS WANTED—MALES—3d Page—3d and 4th columns.
SITUATIONS WANTED—FEMALES—3d Page—3d and 4th columns.
SPECIAL NOTICES—3d Page—3d and 4th columns.
STREETWAYS AND RAILROADS—3d Page—4th and 5th columns.
TEACHERS—3d Page—3d column.

Business Notices.

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New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1880.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—Heavy and Walsh have been acquitted
 in Ireland of the charge of intimidation; the
 British Government is preparing a land bill,
 which Josiah Caldwell, a London railway con-
 tractor, has failed, with liabilities amounting
 to \$2,500,000. Senator Buonomano, the
 Italian author and scientist, and the Earl of
 Crawford are dead. The success of the Pan-
 ama Canal enterprise in Paris is declared to be
 enormous. Minister Lowell spoke at the Lon-
 don civic banquet to General Roberts last evening.
DOMESTIC.—A mass-meeting has been held at
 Caldwell, Kan., in favor of the Oklahoma raid.
 The State debt of Missouri is found to be
 \$16,250,000. Mr. Walker spoke for the
 prosecution in the Bortree murder trial yesterday.
 Mr. Schurz is to make St. Louis his home
 when he leaves office. The hearing of the
 motion for the removal of D.
 E. Chaffee from the Sprague trust-
 ship has been postponed. The "Commonwealth
 Colony" is reported to be in great distress.
 Sarah Bernhardt narrowly escaped being hurt
 while playing in Boston. The National Board
 of Trade met in Washington. The subject of
 diseases in American farm animals was considered
 by a Congressional committee.
CONGRESS.—The Public Education bill was de-
 bated in the Senate; a lively discussion took place
 on a bill to pay a claim for services in Kansas, in
 1855; Mr. Pendleton introduced a bill in regard to
 political assessments and civil service examina-
 tions. In the House the bill was passed grant-
 ing a pension to the widow of President Tyler; the
 Fortifications bill was debated and passed; a bill
 was reported making an appropriation for the im-
 provement of the Mississippi River.
CITY AND SUBURBAN.—The ball last night at the
 new armory of the 7th Regiment was very success-
 ful. The removal of subordinates in some of
 the city departments was begun yesterday.
 Seidenberg & Co., manufacturers of cigars, made
 an assignment; their liabilities are \$500,000.
 Several persons interested in
 the World's Fair visited the site at Inwood. The
 Rev. Dr. J. A. Padgett was consecrated Bishop of
 Washington Territory in Brooklyn. The com-
 mission hours on the elevated roads will be ex-
 tended on Monday. George Ticknor will be
 written a letter on the control of railroads in re-
 sponse to Judge Black's. Gold value of the legal-
 tender silver dollar (412½ grains) 67.60 cents.
 Stocks active, higher and excited, closing strong.
THE WEATHER.—Tribune observations in-
 dicate clear or partly cloudy weather, with slight
 changes in temperature. Thermometer yesterday:
 Highest, 38°; lowest, 34°; average, 36½°.

Control Campbell has begun the work of
 putting the Finance Department on a business
 basis, and a few men who did more work for
 Tammany than for the city have been dropped.
 Mr. George Ticknor Curtis has written a
 reply to Judge Black's recent letter upon
 Government regulation of railroad rates. The
 more important portions of Mr. Curtis's letter
 are printed elsewhere.
 The outgoing steamers yesterday carried
 159,000 letters. This is the largest number
 ever sent out in one day. Both the domestic
 and foreign mails show a steady and
 marked increase, which taxes the facilities of
 the Post Office to the utmost.
 It was time for the periodical reminder that
 the Democratic party learns nothing and forgets
 nothing. Senator Vest furnished it yester-
 day in the chaste remark that John Brown
 was an "old scoundrel," whose crimes had
 "been justly expiated by his public execu-
 tion."
 Speaker Randall yesterday gave the mem-
 bers of the House the pleasing guarantee that
 not even their grandchildren would see a for-
 eign power attacking the harbor of New-
 York. Perhaps not. If not, it may be be-
 cause the help of Speaker Randall's "econ-
 omy" some foreign power will have cap-
 tured it long before!

Mr. Pendleton has introduced the fiercest
 Reform measure of all. He would render it a
 misdemeanor for an officeholder to make even
 a voluntary political subscription, and a mis-
 demeanor for any one to solicit a subscription
 from an officeholder, and invalidates the con-
 tract of any contractor who shall dare to
 make one. The Democratic party is undeni-
 ably sick, and its anxiety to turn monk is
 beautiful to behold.
 The commission hours on the elevated roads

will be lengthened, beginning next Monday,
 by one hour both in the morning and evening.
 The change is in the right direction. The
 old restriction of the five-cent fare in the
 morning to passengers between half-past
 five and half-past seven o'clock, was an ab-
 surdity, because a large proportion of the
 downtown movement takes place after that
 hour. The extension to half-past eight o'clock
 makes a rational division of time.

The report of the Judiciary Committee of
 the Bar Association, on the suggestion re-
 ferred to it Tuesday evening to abolish the
 Superior Court and Court of Common Pleas,
 and transfer their Judges to the Supreme
 Court, will be looked for with interest. There
 are indications of a growing sentiment that
 the machinery of Justice in this city is cum-
 brous and antiquated, moving with too many
 hitches and delays and at too heavy ex-
 pense.

The changes in the City Departments are
 likely to bring to light some unpleasant facts.
 Already there are revelations in the Excise
 Office, which in Tammany hands was one of
 the most corrupt of close corporations. Of
 the appropriation intended to last until next
 May, almost five-sixths have been spent, al-
 though nearly half of the fiscal year yet re-
 mains. The Tammany Commissioners, doubt-
 less, expected a "transfer of an unexpended
 balance" to get them out of the scrape. More
 than a score of inspectors and the counsel of
 the Board have now been suspended. No one
 will regret their loss if the suspension is end-
 less.

If the action of the Bar Association in con-
 demning the heavy campaign assessments
 upon judicial candidates should have the
 effect of discouraging or breaking up the
 practice, it would end a grave public scandal.
 It is only in exceptional cases that lawyers
 can command the sums which are required of
 them by political organizations, without plac-
 ing themselves under obligations which must
 hamper them in the discharge of their duties.
 But leaving this consideration entirely
 out of the question, it is demoralizing, to
 say the least, to have judicial positions put
 up to the highest bidder, for this is what it
 amounts to when the lawyer who is fit for the
 place may not be able to get a nomination be-
 cause he cannot pay the assessment, and the
 lawyer who is not fit may be taken in his
 stead. Mr. Dorman B. Eaton suggests a law
 making such assessments impossible. If such a
 law should be made and afterwards evaded, the
 advocates of an appointive judiciary would
 have a strong argument put into their hands.
 With appointed Judges, there would surely be
 an end of assessments.

Senator Brown, of Georgia, made his first
 speech yesterday since his election, and dis-
 closed himself as a Southerner who "ap-
 peals himself" with one g. This was his last
 address as a Southerner with his past affilia-
 tions and record, but a Democratic Senator
 from the South who uses less than two g's is
 none the less a novelty. He spoke upon the
 bill devoting a portion of the proceeds of
 public lands to public education, the money
 being distributed through the States in pro-
 portion to the rate of illiteracy. Leaving
 the bill and his views upon it out of the
 question, his speech was notable for the
 friendly spirit it showed toward the black
 race. It spoke with admiration of their self-
 control in their new condition, and practically
 admitting that they were often cheated out
 of their votes, argued that there would be
 far less danger of this if they were edu-
 cated. It is fair to presume that Senator
 Brown will be an exception to the Democratic
 herd from the South, not only in his views
 but in his votes. As to the bill, it must be
 said that its advocates have not shown yet any
 reason for passing it which has not been urged
 before, and all of them combined do not over-
 come the constitutional and prudential objec-
 tions to it.

THE FUNDING BILL AND THE CURRENCY.

Congress has at last reached the most im-
 portant matter that can come before for ac-
 tion this year. The funding bill reported from
 the Committee on Ways and Means does not
 accord with Secretary Sherman's recommen-
 dations in some respects, but there is a reason-
 able disposition, among those who care for the
 public credit, not to be captious about details.
 It is the opinion of the Committee, and of
 some well informed bankers, that bonds be-
 coming only 3 per cent interest can be placed
 next year at par, and the Secretary of the
 Treasury will undoubtedly do his best to make
 the measure effective if it passes in that form.
 But there is another feature of the matter
 which Congress seems to overlook. The fund-
 ing bill may take such a form as to cause
 startling changes in the volume of the paper
 currency. By mere inadvertence, Congress
 may cause a violent and rapid contraction for
 which scarcely any member would knowingly
 vote.

The paper currency now consists of legal-
 tender notes, of which no more can be issued
 without bad faith; of National bank notes,
 based upon deposits of United States bonds;
 and of silver certificates which can be issued
 only in exchange for silver coin deposited,
 and are less generally acceptable in use than
 the legal-tenders or the bank notes. The vol-
 ume of bank circulation can be expanded only
 by the deposit of additional bonds, and will
 be contracted whenever it pays better to sell
 the bonds and loan the proceeds directly than
 to retain the circulation based upon the de-
 posit of bonds. Nearly \$209,000,000 of five
 and six per cent bonds, of the classes which
 become redeemable next year, are now on
 deposit as security for bank circulation. If
 new bonds can be sold, those now on deposit
 will be retired, and the pending bill pro-
 vides:

SECTION 5. From and after the 1st day of July, 1881,
 the three per centum bonds authorized by the first section
 of this act shall be the only bonds hereafter receivable
 as security for National bank circulation.

The object of this provision, evidently, is
 to press the banks to subscribe for the new
 bonds. If the estimate prevailing in Con-
 gress, as to the great value of National
 bank circulation, were even approximately
 correct, the provision might have the desired
 effect without other legislation, and without
 causing any serious diminution in the bank
 circulation. But the official reports of Con-
 troller Knox have clearly demonstrated that
 the prevailing notion in regard to the value
 of circulation is far from correct. He has
 shown that, if all the bonds deposited for
 circulation were four per cent, and if the
 rate at which money could be loaned in the
 outside market were not higher than 6 per
 cent, the entire profits of a National bank on
 its capital invested in securing circulation
 would be only 1.7 per cent. This is but a
 slender margin to compensate for all the re-
 strictions and inconveniences of the National
 system. But if the rate obtainable for money
 in the outside market is 8 per cent, as it is
 now in Chicago, St. Louis and many Western

cities, while in regions more remote from
 monetary centres it is usually still higher.
 Mr. Knox shows that the profit on circulation
 protected by four per cent bonds would be
 only 1.3 per cent.

The pending bill contemplates the future
 use of three instead of four per cent bonds as a
 basis for circulation. This would make the
 profit just 1 per cent less than it appears in
 the calculations of the Controller. When
 money can be loaned at 6 per cent, the profit
 on circulation under the pending bill would be
 only seven-tenths of 1 per cent yearly.
 When money can be loaned at 8 per cent, as
 it can in the greater part of the Western and
 Southern States, the profit on circulation un-
 der the pending bill would be only three-
 tenths of 1 per cent yearly. It is the belief
 of nearly all competent financiers that profits
 so very small would not induce the banks to
 retain their present circulation. If not, the
 effect might be a sudden and violent
 contraction of the circulation, possibly even
 to the extent of the whole amount now
 covered by the \$209,000,000 bonds about to
 become redeemable.

Moreover, this section of the bill prevents
 any future use of four or four and a half
 per cent bonds in obtaining new circulation.
 Banks or individuals now holding such bonds, who might be
 disposed to use them in any case of severe
 stringency in the markets as a basis for ob-
 taining new or additional bank circulation,
 would be prevented by the passage of the
 pending bill. Enormous contraction might
 result, while the present safeguard against
 any disastrous contraction—the power of any
 holders of bonds to organize a bank and
 take out new circulation—would be taken
 away. It may be supposed that the silver
 certificates might be issued in place of the
 bank notes retired. But, apart from the un-
 fitness of these notes for a large circulation,
 there is the difficulty that they can be issued
 only in exchange for silver coin deposited,
 and the amount of such coin now held by
 the people is small. Nor can it be increased
 more than about \$2,000,000 per month with
 the present capacity of the mints. Before
 July 1, 1881, only about \$12,000,000 can
 be added to the silver coin now available;
 there are only \$21,000,000 standard dollars
 in the Treasury against which certificates
 have not already been issued, and only a
 part of the silver now in the hands of the
 people would be deposited for that purpose.
 This would by no means take the place of
 \$188,000,000 of bank circulation, now se-
 cured by bonds about to become redeemable,
 which might be surrendered within six months.

Secretary Sherman carefully guarded against
 this danger in his recommendations. He pro-
 posed that the National banks, in lieu of the
 reduction in profit on circulation, should have
 their taxes on capital and deposits removed.
 This would place them in about the same
 position, with a circulation based on three per
 cent bonds, as they were supposed to occupy
 in the computations of Controller Knox, with
 a circulation based on four per cent bonds. Their
 direct profits on circulation would be small,
 but their expenses being reduced, they would
 make about as much money as if the profit on
 circulation were from 1.3 to 1.7 per cent.
 With this feature, there was no danger that
 the plan of Mr. Sherman would cause sudden
 or violent contraction of the circulation. But
 no corresponding provision appears in the
 plans of the Committee of Ways and Means.
 It would be a grave mistake for Congress to
 act upon the funding bill, in its present form,
 without fully considering the possible conse-
 quences as to the supply of currency.

A SOUTHERN JUDGE.

A vacancy upon the Supreme Bench of the
 United States has just occurred by the retire-
 ment of Justice Strong, and one or two more
 are likely to happen within a few weeks. A
 very proper suggestion made in the Southern
 papers that one of these vacancies should be
 filled from the South, has been acted upon by
 the President. The States lying south of the
 Potomac and the Ohio have now but a single
 representative in the tribunal of last resort—
 Justice Harlan, of Kentucky, whose residence
 at Louisville identifies him almost as much with
 the North as the South. A Judge familiar with
 the social condition, local laws, and business in-
 terests of the section of the Union lately in
 rebellion will be a valuable acquisition to the
 Supreme Bench. People in the North will
 readily concede that the claim which comes up
 from the South is just, and should be heeded by
 the Senate as it has been by the President. But
 when names of available appointees are can-
 vassed it is not agreeable for them to hear objec-
 tions urged against certain eminent jurists on
 the ground that they were not born in the South,
 although they have long resided in that section and
 are thoroughly conversant with its affairs. Jus-
 tice Field was not born in California, but no one
 complained when he was appointed that he was
 not a proper representative of the Pacific
 coast. Justice Adler is not a native of Iowa,
 but he is none the less accounted an Iowa man.
 Why should it be insisted that Southern birth is
 essential to entitle a Judge to acceptance as a
 Southern man?

Take, for instance, the case of Judge Woods,
 of Alabama, who has been nominated by the
 President for Justice Strong's place. He has
 been for a long time on the bench of the
 United States Circuit Court, and his promotion
 to the Supreme Bench was very naturally
 suggested when the last vacancy was filled.
 He has lived fifteen years at the South,
 not counting the four years he spent there in
 the Union Army. But we would like to ask a
 plain question. Is not their real objection to
 him and others of his class the fact that they
 are Republicans? After holding Court for
 many years in a circuit embracing six States,
 it is fair to presume that Judge Woods
 knows more about Southern matters than either
 of the Judges of mere local experience who were
 urged by the Southern papers. His ability is
 not disputed. Why, then, was there such a gen-
 eral opposition to his appointment? Is it not
 because the Bourbon Democrats who control the
 organs of public opinion in the South hoped to
 get a man on the Supreme Bench who would
 represent Southern theories of government?
 Because they knew that, while Judge Woods,
 through his whole life at the North, was a
 vehement and leading Democrat, yet their re-
 bellion made him first a War Democrat, then
 a soldier, and then, through that natural grade, a
 Republican? Do they not want a Judge who will re-
 spond to the old heresy of State Rights, hold that the
 election laws are unconstitutional, and aim at grave
 doubts about the validity of the XIIIth, XIVth
 and XVth Amendments? If they do, they are
 likely to be disappointed. We trust that the
 President will select no one for the prospective
 vacancies belonging to the old school
 of Southern jurists. They are all in-
 tured with State Supremacy notions. The
 new men put upon the bench should be
 strongly identified with the principles of

nationality and equal rights, which are the
 priceless fruits of a twenty years' struggle.
 We want no Judges whose faces are turned toward
 the past and who are still flinching in the ashes
 of constitutional theories that were burned up
 in the fierce flame of battle. The President has
 begun well, and we hope to see him continue to
 the end.

A DUNDREARY REFORM.

The task our Democratic reformers have set
 themselves is to reform the Democratic dog
 so that in future the dog shall not waggle the
 tail, but the tail shall waggle the dog. The
 harmless part of the dog is to keep the bark-
 ing and biting end in subjection. It is a very
 well meaning proposal, but there are reasons
 for doubting its entire success. Chief of these is
 that the dog is the heavier of the two; he always
 has wagged the tail, and probably always will.
 Take out the large cities of the North,
 and the Northern wing of the Democratic
 party would collapse. Take out from the large
 cities the low wards, the ignorant and crim-
 inal classes, and the party would disappear.
 The heavy end of the party is the barking and
 biting part; that end needs reforming; that
 supports Bosses; that contributes most to the
 corruption of politics; that requires to be kept
 in subjection. The respectable gentlemen
 who are so assiduously devoting themselves
 to Dundreary methods of reform are a very
 small and insignificant minority—the harmless
 tail of the dog. The heavy end of the animal
 has always wagged the tail; and the latter, so far
 from rebelling, or even remonstrating against
 it, has always consented to follow, and seemed
 rather proud of the association. It has quiv-
 ered with joy at the capture of a bone by the
 heavy end, or complacently permitted itself to
 be tucked when driven out of soft warm places.

But the dog has had hard luck of late. He
 has been driven out from comfortable places;
 has been disappointed in butcher's meat that
 he played all sorts of tricks and rolled over
 in much mud to get, and has lost several
 old bones that had not been quite
 gnawed bare. So now, to change the
 luck, it is proposed to reverse the dog;
 to set him on tail first, and hereafter
 have the tail waggle the dog. It is to
 be done by means of resolutions and pre-
 ambles and articles of association and constitu-
 tions and by-laws, and a general reorganiza-
 tion of the dog, by which the order of nature
 is to be reversed. The dog happens just now
 to be very sore and a good deal bedraggled.
 He betrays his presence only by an occasional
 yelp of pain, and is not disposed to be ac-
 tive. The tail, however, seems to be consid-
 ering the circumstances, unusually demon-
 strative, and is all in a flutter over the Dun-
 dreary plan, under which it is hereafter to
 lead, and control, and waggle the dog.
 There are, in fact, two tails, one at the
 Brunswick and the other at the Young Men's
 Club in Twenty-fourth-st.; but they have a
 common purpose, and, if necessary, will splice
 themselves together, the great thing being to
 establish the precedence, priority and wagging
 power of the tail over the dog. Imagine the
 Democracy of the city emptying itself out
 from the halls and clubs, the saloons, the gin-
 mills, dives and dens, and massing to the
 number of a hundred thousand under the
 leadership of a hundred respectable citizens
 to purity politics! The dog, with a reform
 banner tied to his perpendicular tail, plunging
 stern foremost into the fray for butcher's meat
 and bones!

It won't do, gentlemen. The dog end is too
 heavy for you. You can't reform him by
 changing him end for end, and you can't de-
 ceive the people by going at them tail first
 and pretending that this small ornamental and
 harmless minority controls the end that barks
 and bites, and waggles it at will. Leaders
 don't make parties nor reorganize them;
 parties choose leaders, and at their
 pleasure change them. You gentlemen who
 are buying yourselves with this scheme
 ought to know that you are only the tail, and
 that you can neither change nor conceal the
 nature of the dog. Nor can you waggle him.
 There is but one way to reform that kind of
 dog, and that is to—eat off his tail. And cut
 it just behind his ears.

DE LESSEPS'S CANAL PROJECT.

Nothing has occurred to change the atti-
 tude of the American public toward the
 Panama scheme since Ferdinand de Lesseps
 visited this country. A good deal of admira-
 tion is felt for the pluck he has shown in
 pushing the project forward, and there is some
 surprise at his success in inducing the money-
 lenders of European cities to back him up
 with confidence and cash. The valid objections
 urged last spring from the point of view of
 the effect the canal will have upon American
 interests possess, however, no less force now
 than then. The fact that Secretary Thompson
 has agreed to accept the Presidency of the
 American Committee puts no new face upon
 the matter. Mr. Thompson cannot commit
 either the Government or the people of the
 United States to a friendly attitude toward
 the enterprise. Indeed, his connection with
 it, however much its significance may be
 exaggerated in Europe, means nothing
 here. When he enters upon his duties
 as President of the Committee he will oc-
 cupy only the position of a private citizen en-
 gaged in a business undertaking, and the fact
 of his former connection with the Cabinet
 will go for nothing more than an assurance
 of his integrity and business capacity. What-
 ever influence he may exert with the Adminis-
 tration in case he enters at once upon his new
 position will not be prolonged beyond the
 4th of March, when a new President and a
 new Cabinet come in. M. de Lesseps is to be
 congratulated upon the acquisition of so excel-
 lent a coadjutor, but he must not expect that
 the policy of this Government is going to be
 changed by anything Mr. Thompson will do.

Soon after the new President is inaugu-
 rated the position of the Government toward
 the canal will undoubtedly be defined. It
 will hardly be one of open hostility to its con-
 struction. The United States of America can-
 not well take the position that the United
 States of Colombia shall not permit an as-
 sociation of capitalists to dig a ship canal
 across an isthmus owned by the latter coun-
 try. We have not asked permission to con-
 struct the canal ourselves, and it would be
 childish to say that nobody else shall con-
 struct it. What we can say, however, and
 what we will be entirely justified in saying,
 is that the canal, when completed, will work
 such a grave change in our relations to the
 world that we are bound by the imperative
 consideration of the safety of our Pacific
 Coast to exercise such control over it as will
 prevent the passage of the fleets of any Na-
 tion with which we may be at war. It is not
 our policy to support such vast and costly
 naval armaments as are kept aloft by Eng-
 land, France, Germany and Spain. If we
 had no means of closing the canal against
 an enemy, however, we should be obliged to
 change our policy and build

ships enough to fight off from its mouths the
 fleets of the strongest naval power. Other-
 wise we would find our Western coasts, from
 San Diego up to Sitka, exposed to attack
 within a few weeks after the breaking out of
 hostilities with any country that can keep a
 formidable squadron in the West Indies. We
 have a right to defend ourselves against any
 scheme, however meritorious commercially,
 that seriously weakens our offensive and de-
 fensive capacity as a war-making power. Con-
 sequently it is our right to prescribe such
 measure of control over the canal on our part
 as we may judge necessary to our safety.

But it will be said that the neutrality of the
 canal is to be guaranteed by the European
 Powers. This is all very well, but who shall
 guarantee the guarantors? The paper promises
 of diplomats seldom stand the strain of war
 or resist the pressure of a great national tem-
 pation. What has become of the guarantee that
 the Danish port of Schleswig should be re-
 turned to Denmark? Were there not plenty
 of guarantors of the independence of
 Hanover and Nassau when Prussia
 annexed those States? Had not Great
 Britain fully recognized the independ-
 ence of the Transvaal Republic which she
 swallowed a few months ago with no more
 compunctions than a hungry man feels when
 swallowing an oyster? Suppose the canal
 open and a sudden quarrel to arise between
 the United States and Spain; what is to pre-
 vent Spain from sending a dozen ironclads
 through the Isthmus to bombard our Califor-
 nia towns? Perhaps M. de Lesseps's super-
 intendent would stand at the canal entrance
 and read the neutrality guarantee to the Span-
 ish admiral, or perhaps a ragged Colombian
 brigadier with a corporal's guard would pro-
 test; but what good would all that do us
 after our towns had been burned and our
 shipping destroyed?

If the Isthmus Canal is opened it may be-
 come the duty of this Government, looking
 to the safety of its great interests and posses-
 sions on the Pacific, to insist on acquiring from
 Colombia the territory through which it runs,
 in order to be able to fortify its mouths and
 control its operations in time of war. Such
 prospective action as this need not be much
 discussed now, but it is only fair to the en-
 terprising projectors of the canal that we
 should give them a hint as to the possibilities
 of the future. They must not think that
 Secretary Thompson is going to put the
 shrewd Yankee Nation to sleep while De Les-
 seps digs his big tide-water ditch.

THE OBELISK AND THE PARK COMMISSION.

So long as Mr. Wenman was clothed with
 power to devastate the Public Parks, securely
 insolent in his belief that Tammany was omni-
 potent and perhaps eternal, it was dangerous
 to make any protest against his acts of vandali-
 sm. Any appeal made to him by people of in-
 telligence and taste would of itself suffice to
 make him more stubborn in his insane opposi-
 tion to their wishes. When the entire city re-
 volved against the proposal to set up the obelisk
 on a green knoll in the Park, Mr. Wenman's
 characteristic delirium was: "Whereas the
 'donor of the transportation of the obelisk' is
 said to favor its erection on the mound, there-
 fore I shall vote to have it placed there." Of
 course a consideration like this could be en-
 tertained by the owners of the Park. It might
 be allowed to mitigate their hostility to the
 scheme. But Mr. Wenman, as president of the
 Park Commission, entrusted with the duty of
 conserving the people's pleasure ground and
 protecting it against intrusion, was the one man
 who had no business to listen to, or be swayed
 by, such an argument. This formal declaration
 of contemptuous disregard for the rights of the
 people, this avowed determination of Mr. Wen-
 man to use his power as trustee against the in-
 terests of the people who paid him for his ser-
 vices, will probably stand as the low-water
 mark of the faithlessness and degradation
 which an official presumably responsible can
 reach. In precisely the same spirit, Mr. Wen-
 man ordered a noble row of elms chopped
 down, because a Tammany man, who thought
 the drives in the Park were meant for a trotting
 course, assured him that the trees were in the
 way of his carriage when he swung in from
 Fifth-ave.

But Mr. Wenman has been pitchforked back
 into private life, and Mr. Wales is now a re-
 sponsible Park Commissioner—responsible not
 for the mistakes of his predecessors and of the
 past, but for his own action and the future. If
 the people's rights have been sacrificed by
 illogical votes, why should they not be restored
 by votes that can be justified by reason? Every-
 body knows that the artistic significance of
 the obelisk will be lost if it is set up on a
 mound and surrounded by a fence, like a monu-
 ment in a graveyard lot. On the contrary, the
 full meaning of the obelisk as a work of art will
 be brought out with emphasis if it is placed in
 the vestibule of the Fifth-ave. entrance to the
 Park; while as a memento of Egyptian culture,
 as a monograph of primitive literature, it
 would most appropriately front the Schola's
 Gate. If placed in Mr. Wenman's site it has no
 architectural relation to the Museum of Art, and
 the Park itself will be disfigured by having one
 of its ennobles shaved off